

(e) EXTENSION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNTS TO ENROLLEES OF MEDICAID MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1903(m)(2)(A) (42 U.S.C. 1396b(m)(2)(A)) is amended—

(A) in clause (xi), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in clause (xii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(xiii) such contract provides that payment for covered outpatient drugs dispensed to individuals eligible for medical assistance who are enrolled with the entity shall be subject to the same rebate agreement entered into under section 1927 as the State is subject to and that the State shall have the option of collecting rebates for the dispensing of such drugs by the entity directly from manufacturers or allowing the entity to collect such rebates from manufacturers in exchange for a reduction in the prepaid payments made to the entity for the enrollment of such individuals.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1927(j)(1) (42 U.S.C. 1396r-8(j)(1)) is amended by inserting “other than for purposes of collection of rebates for the dispensing of such drugs in accordance with the provisions of a contract under section 1903(m) that meets the requirements of paragraph (2)(A)(xiii) of that section” before the period.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and apply to rebate agreements entered into or renewed under section 1927 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-8) on or after such date.

## NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Environment and Public Works will hold a hearing on November 2 at 9:30 a.m. to receive testimony on the response to Hurricane Katrina.

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a joint hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. in Room SD-106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony regarding energy pricing and profits.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Lisa Epifani 202-224-5269 or Shannon Ewan at 202-224-7555.

## AUTHORITIES FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on

Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 1, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. in closed session to receive a briefing to provide an update on the progress of the joint improvised explosive devices (IED) Task Force.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, November 1, at 10 a.m., on the nominations of Shana Dale, to be Deputy Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Mark Rosenker, to be Member, National Transportation Safety Board, and Kathryn Higgins, to be Member, of the National Transportation Safety Board.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 1, 2005, at 2:15 p.m. to hold a Business Meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on “Judicial and Executive Nominations” on Tuesday, November 1, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

### Witness List:

Panel I: The Honorable Ted Stevens United States Senator, R-AK; and The Honorable Mitch McConnell United States Senator, R-KY.

Panel II: Erick Nicholas Vitaliano to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; Gregory F. Van Tatenhove to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky; Joseph Frank Bianco to be United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of New York; and Timothy Mark Burgess to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 1 at 10 a.m. The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the National Park Service's draft management policies, including potential impact of the policies on park operations, park resources, interaction with gateway communities, and solicitation and collection of donations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that Glenn Kaminsky, a legislative fellow in the offices of Senator LIEBERMAN, be granted the privilege of the floor during consideration of S. 1932.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## DEFICIT REDUCTION OMNIBUS RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005—Continued

### MODIFICATIONS TO AMENDMENT NO. 2352

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Enzi amendment No. 2352 be modified with the changes at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The modifications are as follows:

of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (as amended by this Act) (20 U.S.C. 1087e(c)), the second sentence of such subsection shall be applied by substituting “2.0 percent” for “2.5 percent” with respect to loans for which the first disbursement of principal is made on or after July 1, 2007.

(c) REPEAL OF ORIGATION FEES.—

(1) AMENDMENTS.—Sections 438(c) and 455(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087-1(c), 1087e(c)) are repealed.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

(d) NONAPPLICABILITY OF SUNSET PROVISION.—Section 7959 shall not apply to this section or to the amendments made by this section.

### SEC. 7958. AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.

There are authorized to be appropriated, and there are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$1,660,000,000 to carry out this subtitle, of which—

(1) \$450,000,000 shall be available to carry out section 7952;

(2) \$10,000,000 shall be available to carry out section 7955; and

(3) \$1,200,000,000 shall be available to carry out section 7956.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I have recently received a very powerful and thoughtful letter from the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA, of which I am a member. While my religious faith is central to the values which inform my political decisions, these decisions are never based exclusively on direction I might receive from my religious denomination's leaders.

Nonetheless, in this instance I believe that this letter, signed by all 66 ELCA bishops, sends the Senate a profoundly important and timely message concerning the budget reconciliation bill currently before this body.

I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD, and I urge all my colleagues to take this message of Christian compassion and values to heart.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: